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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,134	02/06/2006	Masahiko Igarashi	025416-00026	4553

4372 7590 11/15/2010
ARENT FOX LLP
1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 400
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

MACARTHUR, VICTOR L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/15/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was discussed: The examiner stated that it remains unclear what is being shown in figure 1. Is the gear prevented from further movement on the shaft in the installation direction by abutment, press fit, or some other means, or is the gear free for further sliding in the installation direction? The examiner reiterated that the claims would be rendered allowable over the prior art by claiming that the hub/gear is prevented from further axial movement IN THE INSTALLATION DIRECTION with respect to the shaft. However, the written description would still have to be amended to clarify how that is shown in the figures without new matter. Is the hub 14 shown installed as far back in the installation direction as it will go or is it free to slide further? Namely, does the rear face of 14 abut the back of the spline grooves of 12? Is it limited by other means such as press fit between 14 and 12 which prevents further installation movement, or is 14 free to slide further on 12? Note that the written description regarding element 13 being a lock ring which prevents REMOVAL of 14 from 12 in the REMOVAL DIRECTION does not address the issue of whether 14 is free to move on 12 in the INSTALLATION DIRECTION further than what is shown in figure 1. It is important to clarify for the record whether the claimed limitations are at a position fully installed in the installation direction (i.e., prevented from further movement by abutment, press fit, etc.) or if the claim is at a position where further installation direction movement is possible, since the later scenario is present in the prior art as set forth in the previous Office Action rejection. In short, the following must be established for the record: In figures 1, 3-5, 15-17, 23-25, 33-38, is hub 14 prevented from further movement in the INSTALLATION DIRECTION and if so by what? Again noting that the ring described with regard to element 13 is for preventing removal in the removal direction and appears to have no feature to prevent further movement from what is shown in the figures in the INSTALLATION DIRECTION.

Applicant's representative stated that he would consult with applicant regarding these issues. .